

A Little History!

As taken from "History of the Ardsley Curling Club...We're Brithers A"
Compiled by Joseph P Ringland, 1973

75 Years Ago.....

It was on December 6, 1932 that William A. Kimbel gathered several men together at the Ardsley Racquet and Swimming Club (former name of the Country Club) for a preliminary meeting. Two curlers from St. Andrews, Alexander Halliday and Franklin Coe, told those present about this peculiar sport, "outlining the origin of the game, it's unusually fine traditions and the rapid recent growth of the interest in the sport in this country". Although curling had taken place at St. Andrews on a pond for several years their new all-weather indoor rink "the finest in the country" had been built as recently as 1931.

A week later, Tuesday 13th, an organization meeting and dinner were held with 30 in attendance who decided to form the Ardsley Curling Club.

On January 13, 1933, the club was admitted to membership in the Grand National Curling Club of America.

40 Years Ago

When the Ardsley Country Club decided to abandon its clubhouse near Hudson House, and to purchase and occupy the Gould estate (its present location on top of the hill), the Curling Club entered into negotiations to build our curling rink that finally resulted in fruition of their dreams. On December 26, 1966, Barton Eddison threw the first stone on the new ice at the Ardsley Curling Club. Formal dedication of the building, however, was not held until January 28th 1967.

The club news letter appeared with the name "Duck Soup" for the first time dated December 27th, 1943....64 years ago!! Stu Peabody is responsible for the title.

The Joys of New Year's Celebrations

The Ardsley Curling Club has a long and varied tradition of celebrating New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. This year the Baggetts are offering to host a party for one of two options:

Option 1:

New Year's Eve Party starting at around 7:30 PM. People are on the ice for two ends/half an hour and off the ice for an hour for drinks and dinner. Finishes with finals and a traditional welcoming in of the New Year with Champagne and party favors!!

Option 2:

Bloodies, Brooms and Bagels New Year's Day Party starting at 11:00 a.m. with four ends/an hour on and an hour off. Goes on until all teams are played down. Ends with finals at 4:00 p.m and awarding of prizes at 5:00 p.m.

Place your votes by sending in your reservations to wobaggett@optonline.net or leaving a message at 914-591-6864.

You can pick Option 1 or 2 or both by Friday, December 28th. They will get back to you by the next day with the winning program, times and teams!

TURKEY TROT 2007

Thanksgiving weekend saw 10 teams take to the ice under the intrepid leadership (intrepid in this case meaning he was told it would be easy and believed it – that probably won't work again) of Ed Andrews. Ably assisted by Mark & Sue Bussy, Robin Gestring, Armen Balemian, Trish Ryan and Dee Sullivan, the event was a great success. Thanks are in order to everyone who brought desserts and appetizers Friday night to be enjoyed throughout the weekend, to those, too many to mention) who hauled edibles up and down from the kitchen and especially to those who cleaned up. Thanks to Mark Bussy and his ice helpers. And thanks as always to Gert and his whole crew without whom none of these events would be possible. .

RESULTS

WINNERS

RUNNERS-UP

1st Event

WISHBONES

Isa Barghout
Ed Tucker
Matt Allen
Jay Melnick

DRUMSTICKS

Alice Yeh
Scott Silverman
Julie Everett
Ian Everett

2nd Event

GRAVY BOATS

George Austin
Pete McCuen
Dee Sullivan
Pete Westrell

PUMPKIN PIES

Walter Baggett
Laurie Frees
Jason Nawyn
Jamey Gelardi

3rd Event

SWEET POTATOES

Adam Chebetar
John Dorff
Joe Redding
Delores Redding

HOT BUNS

Paul Heubner
Lily Knighton
T. C. Yeh
Jackie Yodashkin

4th Event

CRANBERRY PICKERS

HEARTBURNS

Kay Sugahara

Rob Chebetar
George Fletcher
Liz Chebetar

Dan Tufaro

Vic Heubner
David Wachtel
Mitzie / Jessie Wang

Wednesday Night Men's Curling (Blanton)

Huebner	7	1
Tufaro	7	1
Banino	7	1
Chebetar	7	1
Hess	4	4
Barghout	4	4
Pekowitz	3	5
Siebert	3	5
Harmon	2	6
Smith	2	6
Borowitz	1	7
Davey	1	7

The Blanton is shaping up to be another close and exciting finish. Vic Huebner, Dan Tufaro, Chris Banino, and Adam Chebetar are all presently tied at 7 – 1. It is good to see all the first and second year curlers make a meaningful contribution to their teams. The training program that the curling club has provided to the newer curlers has really improved the quality of play on Wednesday nights.

An 8-ender at the Ardsley Curling Club!

On Wednesday November 21st the team skipped by Adam Chebetar along with Tom Doherty, Zachary Fletcher, and George Fletcher scored an 8-ender against team 4. Pictures were taken (posted on the web site), and the information was passed along to the USCA. It is a rare event in curling, so congratulations to Adam and his team!!!

[The Bucket](#)

[Despite a snowy start to December 2, Plainfield and Ardsley fielded almost 24 curlers per side for the annual fight for the Silver Bucket. Ardsley won 9 of the 12 games played to rout the Jersey curlers. The prize is that Ardsley retains the Bucket until December 2008. The Bucket can be found in the trophy case.](#)

[Thanks to all who helped with the running of the Bucket from Gert Messing \(who was at the club to scrape and prepare the ice before the Bucket committee arrived\) to our pebbles and nippers, and all who helped prepare food, set up and clean off the tables.](#)

Enjoy the Bucket until next year and make plans to travel on December 7 or 14 to Plainfield to retain the Bucket again. Pencil in the date!

Thursday Open League has started strong for the 1st session.

We have one draw that is fully subscribed with 6 rinks and 24 players. The league has a variety of skill levels which make for exciting play. Here are the current standings through the 7th stage:

Rink	Points
Courts	6
Levy	5
Schrull	5
Melnick	2
Shaloub	2
Gerard	1

The Thursday Morning Ladies

just finished the Lady Liberty Tournament with the results as follows:

Muldowney 4-2
Davies 3-3
Noble 3-3
Broadhurst 2-4

The Davies and Noble rinks had to throw skips' rocks to break the tie, with the Davies rink winning the throw.

The Lady Liberty gold medal goes to the team of: **Diane Muldowney, Lillie Shortridge-Baggett, Nick Andes and Merle Huebner**. The Lady Liberty silver medal goes to the team of: **Pauline Davies, Mary Lockhart, Jean Glus and Louise Corry**.

We will now be off for the Holiday break, resuming our league play on Thursday, January the 3rd, 2008 with the Jr. Skips Tournament.

Pauline Davies

FRIDAY NIGHT MIXED CURLING

Standings after the first half of the session are:

First place at 4-0

Robin Gestring, Mark Bussy, Andy Erbelding, Paul Lawer and Neal Lawer

Second place at 3-0

Todd and Katy Clough, Kyle Slover and Amy Vensel.

The Tuesday night women's league

is off to a great start. We had lots of fun for the beginning of the year, making up new teams each week so we all got to play each other. Then the Sports Committee designated this year's jr. skips. They picked their teams via a skip's draw. We began the MacIntosh (jr. skip event) Dec.4). The Dec. 18 game will begin at 7 pm, and we will have our popular Yankee Trader holiday party after the game. If you qualify (female) think about joining our league after the New Year. We will run the All American, an event which takes place in clubs all over the US. Please send any questions about joining the Tuesday league to Nancy Clancy at curlnancy@aol.com.

Good Old Boys (Nutmeg) VS. The Ice House Gang (Ardsley) December 14th at Ardsley!

Good Old Boys (GOB)

Ice House Gang (IHG)

Captain Charlie Mack

Captain Bunkie Harmon

Score	Sheet A	GOB 5	IHG 6
	Sheet B	GOB 7	IHG 7
	Sheet C	GOB 10	IHG 5

Overall Leader Good Old Boys with 22 points Total, Ice House Gang 18

Cumulatively for 2007/2008 Good Old Boys are ahead by 4 points! Congratulations!
The second half of the tournament will be held at Bridgeport in March!

Teams for Ice House Gang

Sheet A
Takiguchi (Skip)
McCuen
T.C.
Reminick
Quinn
McGinniss

Sheet B
Bargohout(Skip)
Davey
Cowles
Andes
Infranco
Honzak

Sheet C
Broadhurst (Skip)
Borowitz
Laird
Bourhill
Wang

Pitt and Huffine were on loan to Nutmeg!

The curlers had a festive lunch at the Ardsley Country Club to celebrate Good Old Boys win!

We will try to get the trophy back at Bridgeport in March 2008!

The Wheatcroft Curling Clinic

The three-day curling clinic held at our club October 26-28 proved to be a resounding success. Twenty-three curlers of all levels showed up to improve their game, and Georgina Wheatcroft, world champion curler and Olympic medalist, filled the bill. She worked with each curler, identifying delivery quirks and bad habits and focused each person on correcting mechanics. She also shared a wealth of tips and insights, not the least of which were her ideas on delivery (the 'cheat spot'...press, raise, transfer, deliver!), strategy ('green, yellow, red'), and the bizarre 'drag shot'. Her infectious enthusiasm and skills as a trainer and curler made for a great weekend for all concerned

LAWN BOWLERS COME TO TOWN

Saturday December 8 saw the lawn bowlers from Central Park pouring into Ardsley by train and car to take to the ice. 12 of their members spent a great two hours on the ice.. As those of you who've attended the lawn bowling events know, the delivery and much of the nomenclature is the same. Many of the participants were curling like they'd been at it for months after a brief instruction. Thanks to all those members who helped with instruction, brought food and/or schmoozed in the warm room.

Ed Andrews, Walter Baggett, Armen Balemian, Alison Bankes, Nancy Clancy, Rose Claus, Trevor Davey, Jim Denny, Jim Duke, Laurie Frees, Jacques Jacquet, Pete McCuen, Jim McGinnis, Jim O'Boyle and Trish Ryan were all there to lend a willing hand. And if I've forgotten anyone, blame it on my age.

BONSPIEL TRAIL

Carosella bonspiel in Schenectady

Curling as a combined Ardsley/Nutmeg team, Trish Ryan, Elly Bockley (Nutmeg), Lily Knighton and Kim Nawyn attended the Carosella bonspiel in Schenectady during the first weekend in November. Although finishing with a winning record, they just couldn't seem to win them in the right order to make it to a final. All had a good time, however, and hope to make a return trip **when the Empire State is played in Schenectady** in January.

2007 Monctonian Bonspiel

On November 14, 2007, a team consisting of Jerry McCarty, Steve Smith, Jim Gutekunst, Bruce Huffine and Chris Banino travelled to the province of New Brunswick to compete with 43 other teams.

After struggling against some good competition, the team finished up 3 and 2 and for their efforts were awarded Runner Up in the Fifth Event.

As always, the group had a great time with many good memories to add to their yearly attendance at this bonspiel.

Plans are underway for their next seasonal bonspiel; the Quebec International (1/18 to 1/27/08), where Jim Gutekunst will serve as the President.

Cape Cod Men's Summerspiel

A **New York Caledonian rink** comprised of George Austin (skip) , Peter Austin , Dennis Mellerup , and Bill Malgieri **won the 1st event** of the popular Cape Cod Men's Summerspiel this July, defeating a Canadian Club rink skipped by three time champion Bob Devine in the finals-- on a personal note, the families of each of our four local curlers were on hand over the weekend to cheer them on to victory in between bike rides and beach appearances--on a strategic note, the Caledonian rink almost had an 8 ender against Norfolk in an early round but Dennis accurately predicted that such an occurrence might be ominous so his normally outstanding sweeping skills were temporarily on hold and the rink settled for a 7 ender, with superstition alive and well

Cape Cod Mixed Summerspiel

Another local rink comprised of George Austin (skip) , Nancy Clancy, John Dorff, and Diane Muldowney **made the 4th event finals**, based on points after three predetermined matches, in the always popular Cape Cod Mixed Summerspiel this July among 32 teams participating-- the atmosphere and hospitality of Cape Cod Curling Club was as usual much in evidence with cookouts, lobster boils , sunscreen ,and top flight college baseball , in no particular order, contributing to a happy curling venture -- there continue to be many repeat rinks, including many from Canada, in this vacation spiel.

Nutmeg Curling Club warms up to new home in Bridgeport

By Lisa Pierce
Special Correspondent

Published December 2 2007

BRIDGEPORT -Every game of curling involves a modest wager.

At the end of a match, it is customary for the four members of the winning team - the team that has managed to slide their eight 42-pound rocks closest to a small ring inscribed at one end of a 146-foot sheet of ice - to celebrate the victory by buying a round of drinks for the team it defeated. The losing team picks up the tab for the next round.

"Curling is a very social sport. You really make good friends," said Nutmeg Curling Club President Jennifer Stannard of Stamford. A match between two curling clubs is called a "friendly," she added.

Last year, about 30 members of the curling club made a not-so-modest \$800,000 wager on the future popularity of their pastime

In 1998, the club had more than 200 members before it lost its home ice at Darien Country Club and began purchasing ice time at a facility in Ardsley, N.Y. After eight years of commuter curling, only a hard-core, close-knit group remained. Last year, with the help of a \$150,000 bequest from the late Anita Bartlett White, a longtime Nutmeg member, as well as loans and bonds purchased by local curlers and other curling clubs, the remaining Nutmeggers built a three-sheet curling facility at Wonderland of Ice in Bridgeport. Sheets are similar to lanes in a bowling alley.

But that wasn't the end of the wager. As soon as it was built, the facility became the property of the city of Bridgeport and was leased back to the club for about \$30,000 a year, not including the cost of the utilities needed to maintain the curling space at 39 degrees, the ice at 24 degrees, and the cozy clubhouse at a more hospitable temperature.

Stannard estimated that about 230 members paying annual dues of about \$600 would allow the club to pay off the loans needed to build the center and keep up with the lease and utilities. Last year, the club grew from 30 to 130 members. About 50 more prospective members have signed up this curling season, which began in October. Most of the new members paid a special first-year fee of about \$130. Second-year membership is \$450.

At this rate, the club could reach the desired 230 curlers in three years.

Stannard said that about 95 percent of the new members learned about curling during the last Winter Olympics.

"That's directly attributable in my mind to the U.S. Men's team winning a Bronze Medal at the Olympics in Turino," Stannard said. "There was so much coverage for the sport. People really became intrigued."

Novice curler Matt Bertonica of New Haven showed up at a recent Nutmeg open house and signed up for the club's Greenhorn league for beginners.

"I saw curling in the Olympics last year and thought it looked fun," Bertonica said.

Bertonica signed up when his college, Rochester Institute of Technology, offered an 11-week physical education class in curling last year. Now he's eager to improve the basic skills he learned at school.

Curling was a medal sport at the 1924 Olympics. After that, it was a demonstration sport when it was included at all, until it was reinstated in 1998. After strong television ratings during the 2002 Olympics, NBC gave it increased coverage at the 2006 Turino Winter Games. Since then, interest in the game has exploded in the United States, where participation has lagged compared with curling centers such as Canada and Denmark.

Chuck Owens of Stamford has been coming to Nutmeg Curling with his wife, Joanna, and their daughter, Jill, since the late 1960s. Owens said the ice is harder and flatter than hockey or figure skating ice, which allows the stone to travel quickly and easily from one side of the sheet to the other. Because curling emphasizes accuracy over strength, Owens said, men and women can compete at a similar level.

"It doesn't take strength to push the stone because the ice is so keen," Owens said. "It requires finesse, not strength."

The ice is so fast that its surface is intentionally marred or "pebbled." Each sheet is sprinkled with water to create small bubbles across the frozen surface, which look like small pebbles and mimic the roughly frozen Scottish lakes and ponds where it is believed the sport was invented in the 1500s.

There is nothing curlers can do to slow down a stone that is pushed too aggressively across the ice. But if it is thrown too softly and is traveling too slowly to reach the "house" or scoring area, the thrower's teammates can sweep the ice with brooms, wearing down the pebbles and speeding the path of the stone.

Curlers have to learn to push off from a starting block, called a "hack," with one leg and slide forward on the other while pushing and rotating a 42-pound granite rock. They also must learn to jog along the ice while vigorously sweeping at the pebbles.

Despite the obstacles, Donna Purkey, a nationally ranked senior player from Greenwich, said the game is

easy to play on a beginner level.

"You can understand it very quickly, and then you have to work on your skills," she said. "When you go out on the ice you will know what's required of you very quickly."

More advanced players learn to spin their wrist as they release the stone, causing it to curl inward or outward as it travels down the ice so it can get close to the "button," or center target. Experienced curlers can control the stone's trajectory and speed enough to knock opposing stones out of scoring position.

On a league night at Nutmeg Curling it's easy to understand why curling is called the "roaring game." As the stones travel down the ice, the granite scrapes against the rough ice and sounds like the roar of a crowd.

While two players stand at each end, taking turns sliding the stones, teammates run up and down the length of the slick ice - some even manage to run fairly gracefully. None fall. They sweep their brushes (which look like mops) across the path of the stone. Some players use a sweeping motion, while others press down as hard as possible, as if mopping a particularly persistent piece of crust off a kitchen floor. As the rocks roll toward the targets, the team captains yell out vague-sounding commands such as "Yup, yup, yup," "All the way," or, more obviously, "Sweep!"

As Stannard said, "It's easy to do on a very basic, friendly level. It's very difficult to master it on a league level."

Last year Stannard spent a month traveling throughout Scotland, curling and making new friends. She said that curlers from across the United States, many of who are unlikely to play at the Bridgeport facility, contributed to the building fund.

"Curlers are very supportive of one another," she said. "We get so much from the sport. It makes curlers all over the country want to make sure that something like a new club is a success."

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Increased Opportunity to Curl

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Your 2007 - 8 curling dues allow unlimited curling. The following leagues are fun and have space for new players and subs. If interested in curling more in the new year, contact:

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Tuesday Evening Women's League - Nancy Clancy curlnancy@aol.com

Thursday Morning Women's League - Pauline Davies pkjdavies@msn.com

Saturday Morning Open League - Steve Hess hess@legalimages.com

Saturday Afternoon and Evening Open League - James Weeks james.weeks@yahoo.com

Sunday Morning Open League - Mike Greene mfgreene28@yahoo.com

~~The Saturday Morning League~~

~~is looking for a few more curlers. They start at 10 and are done by noon. If interested please contact Steve Hess at hess@legalimages.com~~

Recycling at ACC

At the Turkey Trot this past weekend, EdAndrews decided it was **time to start a recycling program** at the club. With the support of Andrew, our bartender, he will pick up all wine and liquor bottles that Andrew has saved in addition to any plastic and aluminum containers that members deposit. A blue box will be placed on the bench in the entrance vestibule this week. The collected material will be taken to my home in Sleepy Hollow for curbside pickup.

Note:- the Ardsley Country Club does not recycle!

Archie Bruce Bonspiel

This is our year to host the Archie Bruce bonspiel against three teams from the Cape Cod Curling Club. The first game will be Saturday, January 5 at 4 PM followed by dinner at the Siebert's and the second game will be Sunday, January 6 at 10 AM followed by brunch in the warm room. Archie Bruce medals will be awarded to the team with the greatest point difference.

Last year 13 of 17 Ardsley curlers were housed in Cape Cod homes for this event and **we would like to offer Cape Cod the same hospitality.** If you would be willing to accommodate one to four people for Saturday night January 5, please get in touch with Pam Siebert ASAP at 914-428-2614 or beersoda@aol.com.

A sign up sheet will be posted on the inside door of the warm room. Depending on how many people sign up, you will curl one or perhaps both days and naturally be included in both dinner and brunch. There's room for 24 curlers. Cost is \$35.00 for both dinner & brunch. Cocktails included with Saturday dinner.

**You are cordially invited to attend the
54th Empire State Bonspiel
"Fashion Nightmare"
at the Schenectady Curling Club**



January 17th-20th, 2008

Five events Winners & Runners-up Medals with a
Three game guarantee

Entry fee: **\$ 300.00** per team (U.S. Funds) - Entries
Close on December 21, 2007

Questions: Call Charlene Fitzgerald, Chair 518-356-0052 or
email cfitzgel@nycap.rr.com
Mail Applications to: 3641 East Lydius Street, Schenectady, NY 12309
phone 518-356-0052

www.schenectadycurlingclub.org

Next Duck Soup February 14th. ted_pitt@msn.com